

## **REMARKS**

The Office Action mailed April 4, 2007, has been received and its contents carefully noted. Claims 1-9 and 35 were rejected. Claims 10-19 were withdrawn. Claims 20-34 were canceled. By this Response, claims 1, 3 and 35 have been amended. Support may be found in the specification and the claims as originally filed. No statutory new matter has been added. Therefore, reconsideration and entry of the claims as amended are respectfully requested.

### **Claim Objection**

The Examiner objected to claim 9 for an incorrect claim identifier.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claim identifier for claim 9 as presented herein is correct. Therefore, the claim objection should properly be withdrawn.

### **Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oka et al. (US 6,431,190) in view of Akimoto (US 5,868,865) and further in view of JP61-98351. Specifically, the Examiner deemed that it would have been obvious to provide hydrophobic resin onto the surface of the rear shielding plate in order to improve wetting of the object while processing.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, require that the body have a metal structure with a coating layer of a hydrophobic resin. Oka et al., Akimoto and JP61-98351 do not teach or suggest that the disclosed rear shielding plate (lower side member) be so composed of a metal material with such a resin coating. JP61-98351 does disclose that the lower side member is formed of Teflon®, but JP61-98351 does not teach or suggest that the lower side member has a metal body coated by a hydrophobic resin. Similarly, Oka et al. and Akimoto do not teach or suggest a hydrophobic resin coating on a body made of metal materials.

Nowhere does the cited art teach or suggest the advantages of Applicants' lower side member having a body made of metal materials and coated with a hydrophobic resin. That is, the cited art does not teach or suggest that such a lower side member can be made thinner and smaller than a conventional apparatus, thereby allowing reduction of Applicants' substrate processing apparatus in size. With their claimed invention structure, Applicants provide a structure which is thin and small, yet still withstands high temperatures without deformation due to its metal foundation beneath the hydrophobic resin coating. Clearly, the cited art does not teach or suggest a lower side member having a body structured of metal materials and a coating layer of hydrophobic resin, according to the instant invention, to achieve high strength and high heat resistance. Since the cited prior art do not, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the amended claims, the present invention remains novel and unobvious.

Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should be withdrawn.

#### **Request for Interview**

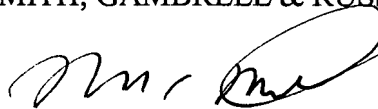
Applicants respectfully request either a telephonic or an in-person interview should there be any remaining issues.

### CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to **Deposit Account No. 02-4300**, Attorney Docket No. **033082M115**.

Respectfully submitted,  
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